in 1959 to create ideal jails are not being followed by all the States except Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to undertake a fresh survey of various jails in the country with a view to study on the spot the problems of prisoners and to entertain their complaints, if any; and

(c) whether Government propose to publish the English version of jail book entitled "Rights of Prisoners" in various regional languages for being given to needy prisoners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) 'Prison' is a State subject and it is for the State Governments to take care of prisoners lodged in their jails and their demands.

National Highways and the Accidents

3202. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the number of fatal accidents on the National Highways has been increasing from year to year;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to make these Highways safe for travel;

(c) what is the number of cities/towns with a population of two lakhs and more, which are serviced by national highways;

(d) the number of such cities/towns provided with by-passes; and

(e) by when will the remaining cities/towns be provided with by-passes?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Roads Accidents take place due to multiple reasons including human factors, fitness of vehicles etc. Engineering improvements are being continuously made on the National Highways to make them safer. A number of enforcement measures provided in the new Motor Vehicles Act will also greatly help in reducing the road accidents.

(c) to (e) Information regarding number of cities/towns with population of two lakhs and more serviced by National Highways is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha along with the position of by-passes around them.

Rajasthani speaking people

3203. SHRI GAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Rajasthani-speaking people in each census, under the head of "mother tongue";

(b) whether there has been a sharp decline in that number from 1961 onwards; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure that response from the people are solicited to enable them to record their option of mother-tongue freely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Four censuses were conducted in the country after Independence, in 1951, 1961, 1971 and 1981. The number of Rajasthani speaking people in the country has not been given under the heading "mother tongue" in the 1951 census report. This report, however, gives the total number of speakers of Rajasthani in the country as 645,001 under Indian languages (or dialects) with speakers numbering a lakh and over. According to the 1961 census report the number of persons with Rajasthani as mother tongue is

804,274. This information is not available separately in the 1971 and 1981 sensuses since mother tongues have been grouped in some cases under the relevant languages on the basis of information readily available or in the light of studies already made. Rajasthani was grouped under Hindi in these two censuses and the number of persons with Rajasthani as mother tongue is not available separately in each of these two censuses.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The enumerators for 1991 census are instructed to record in full the mother tongue as returned by the respondent.. through publicity measures undertaken for the 1991 census, people are being requested to cooperate in the task of census—taking by providing complete and correct information to the enumerator for all the prescribed questions which include mother tongue also.

Misleading statements by a Himachal Firm to Indian Embassy in West Germany

3204. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2298 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th May, 1990 and state:

(a) whether the Indian Embassy in West Germany has received complaints against the Himachal Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation Limited since 1989;

(b) whether the foreign parties have complained about the misleading statements by Himachal Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation Limited to Indain Embassy in West Germany on some specific points and to which the Embassy has been unable to get the correct reply; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) to (c) The Embassy of India in Bonn has received one complaint from M/c. Gornardt & Buck GmbH & Co. claiming that it had entered into an agreement with HPSIDC for manufacture of Fire Protection Steel Doors. However, it is understood from the Government of Himachal Pradesh that no formal agreement was signed nor has a Letter of Intent been granted to the HPSIDC by the Government of India.

Grounding of cargo vessel

3205. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cargo vessel named WB Prafulla owned by the CIWTC while coming from Calcutta to Patna got grounded near Sultanganj (Bhagalpur) on 6th October, 1989;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite SOS received in the Patna regional office, no high officer visited the site in Sultanganj for about 10 days and the Director, Patna proceeded on leave giving the charge to his junior officer—a Civil Engineer having no marine or mecahnical experience;

(c) whether it is a fact that notwithstanding overall expenditure running into Rs. 15 to 20 lacs incurred jointly by the CIWTC in shape of payment to contractors TA,DA to officers etc. the vessel could not be diverted to the main channel; and

(d) if reply to the above are in affirmative the action taken against the officer/officers of this maior mishan arising out of acts of commissions and commissions and also the justification for the further attempt made for salvaging the vessel?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) The cargo vessel MV Pra-